

## THEMES FROM TOWN HALL MEETINGS

- We must do something about the health care crisis. The current system often results in poor health for the uninsured, it stifles entrepreneurship, makes people choose between food and health care, causes bankruptcies, keeps people who want to work from doing so, stops small business start-ups, causes people to give up small businesses and take jobs that provide insurance, and forces employers to eliminate health care benefits for their employees which may cause them to seek employment elsewhere.
- Health Care is a right, not a privilege.
- All Michigan residents should have access to a basic array of preventive care, screenings, primary health care services, disease management and hospitalization.
- It is particularly critical that preventive care be provided to all Michigan residents.
- It is financially advantageous for us to manage chronic disease in Michigan to prevent or at least limit episodes of critical illness.
- The uninsured and their employers by and large are unable to afford to purchase health insurance. COBRA is too expensive to be of help to people who lose their jobs.
- It is essential that we reduce our insurance administrative expenses and use those funds to provide health care to Michigan's uninsured.
- The patchwork of insurance and coverage programs we have is expensive and not meeting the needs of too many of Michigan's residents.
- Medicaid reimbursements to providers are too low to insure adequate participation of providers.
- Michigan residents must make wiser life style choices to reduce health care costs.
- Those without insurance don't receive the care they need in a timely fashion so they are sicker and their care is more costly when they do receive care.
- Lack of dental, mental health and substance abuse care and treatment are expensive in the long-run.
- Prescription drug coverage is a concern that may get worse if the pharmaceutical companies end some of their assistance programs due to implementation of Medicare Part D.
- We should treat lack of insurance as a disaster that needs to be addressed immediately.
- Everyone should contribute toward the cost of health insurance for everyone, businesses and individuals should all pay their fair share based on ability to pay.
- Categories of the uninsured were discussed including: young adults, women 55 to 64 many of whom are caregivers, part time workers, early retirees, health care workers, farmers, small business owners and employees, divorced individuals, low wage earners, etc.